

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188653

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 4178 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAMASCUS
TEL AVIV JUL 24.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSC PINT, LE

SUBJ: LEBANON: VIEWS OF BASHIR GEMAYEL

1. GERMAN AMBASSADOR VON PACHELBEL HAS GIVEN ME ACCOUNT OF
LONG CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH BASHIR GEMAYEL JULY 22. HE
WENT TO SEE BASHIR IN EFFORT TO CONVINCE HIM BE MORE COOPER-
ATIVE WITH SARKIS. FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF BASHIR'S REACTIONS
OF INTEREST.

2. ISRAELIS. BASHIR WANTED TO KNOW WITH SOME HEAT WHY ISRAELIS
HAD NOT INTERVENED DURING RECENT FIGHTING. WAY IN WHICH HE
PUT QUESTION IMPLIED,IN PACHELBEL'S VIEW, THAT HE HAD EXPEC-
TED THEM TO DO SO, AND THAT HE HAD BEEN LED TO THOSE EXPEC-
TATIONS BY THE ISRAELIS.

3. SOUTH LEBANON. BASHIR HAD OPPOSED ENTRY OF LEBANESE
ARMY INTO SOUTH BECAUSE IT WOULD MEAN CLOSURE OF GOOD FENCE
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AND MARONITES NEEDED THAT LINK WITH ISRAELIS.

4. SARKIS. SARKIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE AND WOULD HAVE TO GO. HE
COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT TAKE DECISIONS. WHEN PACHELBEL HAD
REMONSTRATED THAT BASHIR HIMSELF HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR
HIM TO TAKE MANY DECISIONS, BASHIR HAD RESPONDED THAT PHALANGE
WAS IN REVOLUTIONARY STAGE.

5. SYRIANS. BASHIR HAD SAID SYRIANS MUST LEAVE LEBANON. THEIR PROVOCATIONS AND REPRESSIVE ACTIONS AGAINST CHRISTIANS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR LATTER TO SUPPORT THEIR CONTINUED PRESENCE. PACHELBEL HAD POINTED OUT THAT FROM THE INITIAL ENTRY OF THE SYRIANS INTO ASHRAFIYAH, BASHIR HAD TAKEN POSITION THAT THEY WERE THERE TO PROTECT OTHERS, NOT THE PHALANGE, WHICH COULD PROTECT ITSELF. PHALANGE HAD MADE LIFE DIFFICULT FOR SYRIANS AND LATTER WERE REACTING. BASHIR HAD TANEN POINT.

6. ARMY IN BEIRUT. BASHIR MAINTAINED THAT SOLUTION TO PRESENT CRISIS WAS INTRODUCTION OF LEBANESE ARMY INTO BEIRUT TO REPLACE SYRIANS. PACHELBEL HAD NOTED THAT AT PRESENT ARMY WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO WEST BEIRUTIS. BASHIR HAD SUGGESTED THAT ADF STAY IN WEST BEIRUT AND LEBANESE ARMY TAKE OVER EASTERN SECTOR OF CITY.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN AVOIDING CONTACT WITH BASHIR AND PIERRE GEMAYEL AND WITH CAMILLE CHAMOUN FOR PAST FEW WEEKS FOR FEAR THAT THEY WOULD PLAY UP SUCH CONTACTS AS EVIDENCE OF US SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THESE LEADERS ARE INCREASINGLY BITTER ABOUT OUR ROLE AND FEEL DESERTED BY THE WEST. WHILE WE DO NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE THEIR HARDLINING, WE NEED TO KEEP SOME CONTACT WITH THEM, AND I WILL BEGIN A FEW CAUTIOUS CONTACTS THIS WEEK BY ONE MEANS
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OR ANOTHER. PARKER

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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